(iv) to ensure adequate and timely availability of industrial raw materials for sustaining the industrial growth; and

(v) to provide easy access to essential imported capital goods for modernisation, technological upgradation and making the industry progressively competitive internationally.

Pending cases in the Supreme Court and High Courts

318. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases at present pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts and for how long these are pending;

(b) what steps are being taken to clear these cases; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there are a number of vacancies of Judges in the various High Courts and that the Supreme Court has directed the Union Government to fill up these vacancies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) Various steps have been taken to reduce pendency of cases in courts, such as, grouping of matters regarding common question of law and constitution of special benches. The judge strength of Supreme Court has been raised from 18 to 26; and of High Courts from 351 to 462 in February, 1990. Recommendations of the Committee of three Chief Justices of High Courts, set up in 1984 to reduce arrears have been forwarded to the High Courts and the State Governments for appropriate action.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Statement

Cases Pending in Supreme Court and Various High Courts

Name of the Court	No. of cases pending as on 31-12-1989	No. of cases pending over 10 years
Supreme Court	203158	6480 (Regular Hearing Matters only)
High Court		
Allahabad	445039*	30868
Andhra Pradesh	72891	49
Bombay	156454	8649
Calcutta	189338**	17300**
Delhi	109495	7600

1	2	3
Gauhati	21759	159
Gujarat	74344	2914
Himachal Pradesh	12712	858
Jammu & Kashmir	41655*	575*
Karnataka	79429	619
Kerala	34330 (Main cases)	11
Madhya Pradesh	45552	1551
Madras	225636**	882**
Orissa	45767*	725
Patna	66857	3512
Punjab & Haryana	91769	1792
Rajasthan	70455	1719
Sikkim	45	..

*Indicate the pendency in the High Courts as on 30-6-1989.

**Indicate the pendency in the High Courts as on 31-12-88.

Financial asssistance to Cardamom Growers

319. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to heavy rains and cyclone there was heavy loss of production of cardamom both in Tamil Nadu and Kerala;

(b) whether the Cardamom growers have sought any financial assistance to meet this heavy loss and whether Government have received any representation from them in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to give sufficient financial assistance to the cardamom growers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture has released the amounts towards relief as per the norms laid down in this behalf. The Spices Board has also prepared and implemented certain schemes within its delegated powers for the benefit of the cardamom growers. In addition, the affected growers were given preference under the on-going schemes of the Board for replanting, soil conservation, and water-management.

Export of agricultural products

320. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to increase the export of agricultural products;